

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-ninth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2010

House Engrossed
FILED
KEN BENNETT
SECRETARY OF STATE

HOUSE RESOLUTION 2009

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF MICHAEL A. CUSANOVICH.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Michael A. Cusanovich, longtime academic at the University of Arizona,
2 died on April 12, 2010 at the age of sixty-eight.

3 For more than four decades, Michael Cusanovich served in numerous
4 faculty and administrative posts with the University of Arizona, advocating
5 strongly for advancing biotechnology research and economic development and
6 overseeing the university's tremendous growth in the sciences and research.
7 He began his career with the university as an assistant professor of
8 chemistry in 1969 after receiving his doctoral degree from the University of
9 California, San Diego, and conducting two years of postdoctoral research. He
10 joined the university's biochemistry department in 1978 and was selected as
11 the interim vice dean for the newly reorganized Graduate College in 1987.
12 Just a year later, Michael was named the new vice president for research and
13 dean of the Graduate College, a post he held for the next ten years. In 1992,
14 he served as interim provost, overseeing a difficult reduction in university
15 finances.

16 Dedicated to his research, Michael Cusanovich gained international
17 acclaim for his work on biological electron transfer and signaling. Under
18 his capable guidance, the University of Arizona became a renowned public
19 research institution and achieved a significant increase in awarding degrees
20 to minority students. He was devoted to his laboratory and classroom work,
21 continuing his research and teaching dozens of classes even while serving as
22 an administrator. During his tenure, the university opened the controversial
23 but highly praised Mount Graham International Observatory in 1988. Michael
24 Cusanovich relinquished his post as vice president in 1998 to return to
25 faculty work, and in 2005 he was named as a Regents' Professor, the school's
26 highest honor for researchers.

27 Michael Cusanovich was committed to the exchange of knowledge and
28 collaboration across disciplines and among various scientists around the
29 world. His recent work included a key role in developing the National
30 Alliance for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts, a consortium funded by the
31 United States Department of Energy. He also served for a year as the program
32 director for the biochemistry program at the National Science Foundation in
33 Washington, D.C. He was the longtime director of the Arizona Research
34 Laboratories, a founder and leader of the Bioindustry Organization of
35 Southern Arizona and a member of the Arizona Bioindustry Association's board
36 of directors.

37 In all of his endeavors, Michael Cusanovich demonstrated the highest
38 standards of academic, scientific and personal excellence. He gave generously
39 of his time, energy and knowledge as a teacher, scientist, administrator and
40 mentor, earning the respect and admiration of all who knew him. He will be
41 greatly missed by his wife, Marilyn, his children and extended family, his
42 colleagues and students, and his peers in the academic community.

43 Therefore

44 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

45 That the Members of the House of Representatives express regret at the
46 passing of Michael Cusanovich and extend their deepest sympathies to his
47 surviving family members.

~~UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE APRIL 29, 2010.~~

~~FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 29, 2010.~~